

THE CITIZENS' ASSOCIATIONS

Among discussions of citizens' associations in the District during the year was the subject of the proposed change of government for the District of Columbia.

The right to suffrage in Washington has been talked of from every viewpoint. While improvements, street railroad questions, jails, sewers and the myriad subjects of interest to citizens have been investigated by committees and individuals and entire associations, the one big thing which looms large on the horizon is the strenuous discussion for and against the change of government.

Toward the end of the year meetings were called by every one of the associations to go on record in opposing or supporting the proposition to have a single-headed government and the right to vote in the District.

October 22 a joint meeting was held. Nearly every association was represented by committee. The discussion was heated. It was decided that all associations should be in touch with one or other on this vital subject.

PATRIOTIC

A leaven of patriotism was maintained in the busy material affairs of life throughout the year by the activities of soldier and sailor societies and kindred organizations.

They formed the theme of many meetings during 1908, and the soldier and sailor dead were honored.

Early last year the home of Francis Scott Key was dedicated, the services taking place February 23. The officers of the Department of the Potomac, U. S. A. R., were installed jointly with those of the Woman's Relief Corps, February 23. The new arrangements of the stars on Old Glory, because of the admission to statehood of Oklahoma, went into effect March 11. Thomas Jefferson was eulogized by Mr. Bryce, British ambassador, April 13. Patriotic bodeges met and protested against the desecration of the American flag, April 27. Impressive ceremonies marked the disinterment of the remains of George Clinton, first governor of New York, at Congressional cemetery and their transportation to New York, May 17.

Discussions by William Jennings Bryan, Memorial exercises for the dead of the war with Spain were held May 18. Memorial day, May 30, was celebrated with the usual ceremonies.

Patriotic addresses were delivered in the public schools of Washington Flag day, June 12. The American flag was hoisted on the same day a large flag was hoisted over the old Francis Scott Key house in Georgetown. The day was also observed in the city.

During the year just closed the channels of the Potomac river in the vicinity of the city were dredged to a depth of two feet. The material taken from the river bottom was used in raising the grade of Potomac Park and in reclaiming a new area of the Eastern branch flats. It is now possible for vessels drawing twenty-two feet of water to reach the piers at Georgetown on almost any tide, and deep water is also in the Eastern branch to the navy yard.

CHARITIES

During the year 1908 the local charitable organizations reported progress along the lines of their endeavors. The usual summer outings of the Associated Charities to several of the nearby resorts and those of a number of fraternal organizations were given and all proved successful.

Charles F. Weiler, general secretary of the Associated Charities for seven years, resigned to enter the service of the board of charities by President Roosevelt, June 18. The "Four Hundred Club" was organized and raised \$4,000 deficit in the year. The "Boys' Club" of the city, the Gospel Army opened a home at 215 John Marshall place northwest for girls July 15.

The Red Cross Society August 3 gave \$2,000 toward the Chinese famine fund. The Southeast Settlement House at 324 Virginia avenue southeast was formally dedicated November 9. The District of Columbia Red Cross Society sold Christmas Red Cross stamps, for which a sum was raised toward the prevention of tuberculosis fund.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles F. Weiler were given a reception at the A. A. building November 21, at which there was an attendance of over 2,000 persons. The colored society, Settlement also tendered a reception to the Rochester, N. Y., at the Lincoln Temple, 11th and R streets northwest.

SOCIETY

Socially a satisfactory average was maintained the past year at the capital. White House hospitality has been in frequent evidence. The usual state dinners and receptions followed one another in regular sequence. The only event of the ordinary was the debut ball for Miss Ethel Roosevelt, December 28.

Fifty-five guests were presented in November and December.

The visit of the next President and Mrs. Taft to the capital in early December was made a continuous round of elegant entertainment.

The international marriages were those of Miss Helen Foulke and Mr. Emmanuel J. Lavenex, Belgian minister to Persia, and Miss Harriet R. Smith and Mr. W. R. Kenard of the British embassy.

The rumored engagement of Miss Katherine Elkins to the Duke of the Abruzzi was the longest talked of gossip of the year.

THE CONGRESSIONAL CLUB

The Congressional Club was formed last spring, and its home, the southeast corner of 15th and K streets, formally opened by a reception in honor of the next President and Mrs. Taft, December 11.

James B. Perkins, wife of the representative from New York, is the president. The membership consists of the wives, sisters and daughters of senators and members of Congress, and the purpose of the club is to promote acquaintance among congressional women at the capital and to provide a general meeting place for them.

LABOR

The principal interest in labor circles in the District in the past year has been in connection with the Buck Stove and Range Company's injunction against officers

of the American Federation of Labor; the jail sentences, pronounced upon Samuel Gompers, John Mitchell and Frank Morrison by Judge Wright; the open-shop contest and the formation of a "mixed union" of employers and employees.

The matter of the suffrage in the District of Columbia was given central place in the Central Labor Union, and the decision reached that the voting right should be restored to the people of the District.

Not much progress was made during the year with the project to erect a temple of labor in Washington. Organized labor in the District fought the proposed appointment of Mr. Roosevelt as public printer because it was alleged he is not a practical printer.

Some excitement in labor circles was caused by the furloughing of 250 workmen in the navy yard April 1. The Employers' Association published its open-shop wage scale. Justice Gould enjoined bricklayers from interfering with open-shop workers, May 8.

Frank A. Kidd was elected president of Central Labor Union, May 21. The decision was reached that the Employers' Liability act is enforceable in the District of Columbia.

The Central Labor Union re-elected its old officers July 6. Terminating strikers established a camp near the railroad roadhouse and some excitement followed, July 11. The butchers in the District entered upon a strike August 15. Some of the bookbinders in the government printing office attempted to form an independent union. Labor day was fittingly celebrated. The Marine Band was exempted from the provisions of the law against labor unions. The labor unions entered a protest against the decision of the Attorney General.

THE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Keeping pace with the rapid growth of the city, the Public Library during the past year advanced materially in spite of limited appropriations. The volumes in the library now number more than 100,000. The home circulation amounts to 525,000.

These figures show a decided increase over those of last year. Perhaps the most important feature of the library during 1908 is the useful arts department. Although Washington is not considered an industrial city, this department has been a source of interest to persons seeking knowledge on industrial questions.

That the library is not a "fiction library" is shown by the steady falling off in the applications for works of romance, the large majority of the library's circulation for the year being represented by books of a more practical character.

In addition to the circulation of reading matter, the library has been a source of interest to the people of Washington on account of the number of interesting and instructive lectures that have been given in its halls from time to time.

ALONG THE RIVER FRONT

During the year just closed the channels of the Potomac river in the vicinity of the city were dredged to a depth of two feet. The material taken from the river bottom was used in raising the grade of Potomac Park and in reclaiming a new area of the Eastern branch flats. It is now possible for vessels drawing twenty-two feet of water to reach the piers at Georgetown on almost any tide, and deep water is also in the Eastern branch to the navy yard.

The dredging work was started in early spring and completed in about four months. The tidal basin was also deepened by one foot.

Two accidents, involving loss of life, occurred on the Potomac in 1908. May 4 a tugboat, the Alexandria, was loaded for a trip down the river she suddenly filled and sank alongside the wharf in eighteen feet of water. The tugboat was carrying a large number of passengers.

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team representing the guard competed with a team of misanthropes at Annapolis, May 9. The latest model army rifle was issued to the brigade in April. The annual drill of the brigade, held on the ellipse of the President's Park, Monday, May 11, the occasion being in the nature of a formal farewell to Maj. L. H. Brett, 1st U. S. Cavalry, who left to serve in the Philippines.

"Ducky" Holmes, otherwise called Henry L. Schirfke, was convicted of the murder of John A. McPherson, in connection with the death of Mary Hamilton. The case is pending, awaiting the disposition of the motion filed for a new trial.

William Jones, who attempted to shoot Charles Guitau, the assassin of President Garfield, was indicted for murder in the second degree December 18, charged with the killing of John A. McPherson, October 11, 1908.

The first irregularities that have been discovered in the United States patent office during its history were revealed in the course of the trial of Ned W. Barton, Henry L. Evering and John L. Heany, who were called on in Criminal Court No. 1, November 25, to answer before Justice Gould and a jury the charge of conspiring to commit an offense against the United States by the sale of false patents for genuine ones.

The National Guard participated in the parade November 25 in connection with the unveiling of the statue of Gen. Sheridan.

THE COURTS

The placing of its injunction ban on an organization comprising a membership of 2,000,000 men; its judgment that Samuel Gompers, John Mitchell and Frank Morrison, leaders of the organization, violated this injunction and its imposition of jail sentences of six, nine and twelve months imprisonment, constitute the most important actions of the District Supreme Court during the year just closed.

These decisions, coupled with the beginning of the year with a temporary injunction laid against the American Federation of Labor, its officers and allied bodies, was a landmark in the history of the court.

The District Supreme Court in the spotlight of public interest throughout the year. Probably no decision of a court in this country has been more widely read or commented on at more length than those of the court in the case of the American Federation of Labor.

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then in course of construction collapsed at the corner of 20th and P streets. Albert M. Raymond, who fled the jurisdiction after he was convicted of a recent crime, was sentenced to the penitentiary for five years, was apprehended in June last living in St. Louis, Mo., and was sent to the penitentiary to serve his sentence.

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PATENT FRAUD TRIAL

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affecting affairs in the District and coming under the United States statutes. Violations of the pure food and drugs act and the prohibition of recent legislation commerce provisions affecting street car traffic in the city have been among them.

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THE HARPER CASE

Perhaps the most important case of the year was that in which Robert N. Harper was accused of violating the pure food and drug act in the manufacture of a mislabeled headache remedy and the sale of a misbranded article involving the same remedy.

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